

In the claims:

Please amend claims 1, 8, and 15-21 as indicated below. A complete listing of the claims follows.

1. (Currently amended) A system, comprising:
a storage device configured to store a plurality of files; and
a host device configured to implement a file system, wherein the file system is
configured to manage access to said storage device and to store file system
content on said storage device, wherein said file system comprises a
programming-language-independent interface ~~whereby~~ through which an
application is configured to access ~~accesses~~ said file system content.
2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said file system content
comprises file data stored in one or more of said plurality of files.
3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said file system content
comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.
4. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said metadata is stored in
Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said programming-language-
independent interface is configured to:
detect a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file;
select at least a portion of said file system content dependent on said virtual file
identity; and
return said selected file system content.

6. (Original) The system as recited in claim 5, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within a file identity corresponding to said given file.
7. (Original) The system as recited in claim 5, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to a file identity corresponding to said given file.
8. (Currently amended) A method, comprising:
 - a file system storing file system content on a storage device configured to store a plurality of files, wherein said file system is implemented by a host device; and
 - an application accessing said file system content via a programming-language-independent interface implemented by said file system.
9. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said file system content comprises file data stored in one or more files.
10. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said file system content comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.
11. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said metadata is stored in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.
12. (Original) The method as recited in claim 8, wherein said programming-language-independent interface is configured to:
 - detect a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file;
 - select at least a portion of said file system content dependent on said virtual file identity; and
 - return said selected file system content.

13. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within a file identity corresponding to said given file.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to a file identity corresponding to said given file.

15. (Currently amended) A tangible, computer-accessible storage medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to implement a file system configured to:

store file system content on a storage device configured to store a plurality of files; and

present access said file system content via a programming-language-independent interface to an application, wherein said application accesses said file system content via said programming-language-independent interface.

16. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said file system content comprises file data stored in one or more files.

17. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said file system content comprises metadata stored in a named stream corresponding to a given file.

18. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said metadata is stored in Extensible Markup Language (XML) format.

19. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 15, wherein said programming-language-independent interface is configured to:

detect a virtual file identity corresponding to a given file;

select at least a portion of said file system content dependent on said virtual file identity; and
return said selected file system content.

20. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by embedding a command token within a file identity corresponding to said given file.

21. (Currently amended) The computer-accessible storage medium as recited in claim 19, wherein said virtual file identity is formed by prepending a virtual directory to a file identity corresponding to said given file.